DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

1. What do view as the mission of the Department of Information Technology (DIT)?

2. In what ways does that mission benefit the taxpayers of the state?

3. How will the activities of your department help state departments grapple with the current budget deficit?

4. What efficiencies or cost savings does your department offer to other parts of state government?

5. In terms of increasing the ease of information sharing between state departments, what will you department do that Project MAIN didn't?

6. How will DIT improve the ability of taxpayers to interact with state government?

7. Where do you see budget cuts in your department coming from?

8. Given the Governor's new executive orders regarding conflict of interest, how do you plan to conduct yourself as Director of DIT in situations involving your most recent employer? If you plan to recuse yourself from decisions involving your previous employer, to whom are you delegating decision-making authority?

Department of InformationTechnology
Responses for Confirmation of Teresa (Teri) Takai

Question #1: What do you view as the mission of the Department of Information Technology?

The stated mission of the department is to provide professional management of the IT resources of the State of Michigan.

I concur and believe the consolidated management of information technology resources will yield advantages to the state of Michigan in terms of both efficiency – lower cost – and effectiveness – better services for citizens, business and other state agencies.

Question #2: In what ways does that mission benefit the taxpayers of the state?

It benefits them in two ways. First, and perhaps the most obvious answer, is that we can save them money. By delivering our mission, we can spend the taxpayer's money in a more efficient manner. Secondly, we can provide increasing services to our citizens in a more convenient manner. Michigan.gov provides the platform for a wide variety of services from license applications to childcare reimbursement. Our objective is to provide ubiquitous access to these capabilities so that all citizens can take advantage of them.

Question #3: How will activities of your department help state departments grapple with the current budget deficit?

We are proactively seeking cost saving opportunities in three areas:

1. Consolidation of hardware, software and user support;
2. Reduction of spending on maintaining legacy (old/existing) computer systems;
3. Optimizing and reallocating IT assets across agencies to minimize the need for new equipment purchases.

Question #4: What efficiencies or cost savings does your department offer to other parts of state government?

As noted in Question #3, there are efficiencies and cost savings from the consolidation of IT assets. We also see an opportunity to negotiate improved contract terms with key hardware, software, and computer services vendors now that we have a statewide perspective of our purchases.

Question #5: In terms of increasing the ease of information sharing between state departments, what will your department do that Project MAIN didn't?

Project MAIN is the statewide accounting system that processes detailed accounting transactions for the agencies. It shares accounting information through the Michigan Information Database (MIDB).

Our Michigan.gov initiatives address the sharing of information across agencies through the Internet and Intranet (accessible only within state government). These initiatives reach beyond the accounting transactions to information common to state departments.

We also have a growing data warehouse capability that provides access to a wide variety of data collected by many agencies including Community Health, Treasury and FIA.

Question #6: How will DIT improve the ability of taxpayers to interact with state government?

Our department is responsible for the oversight and administration of the Michigan.gov web portal. The Michigan.gov web portal is utilized by many of our citizens today to interact with state government and will continue to improve in the future. In the past year, site traffic on the Michigan.gov portal has increased by 230%. People are coming to Michigan.gov more than ever, with more than 500,000 page views a day. As we continue to move towards the promise of government access 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by providing more and more services on Michigan.gov, we will continue to improve the ability of taxpayers to interact with government. I envision a day when kiosks will be available around

the state for all citizens to access the web in order to complete their government interactions.

Question #7: Where do you see budget cuts in your department coming from?

We are presently working with the state departments that we serve to determine where we will reduce spending. As mentioned in Question #3, we have aggressive plans to consolidate hardware that will yield significant medium term savings and permit us to reduce planned spending on new equipment. We are also working aggressively with the state departments to reduce spending on legacy maintenance.

Question #8: Given the Governor's new Executive Orders regarding conflict of interest, how do you plan to conduct yourself as Director of DIT in situations involving your most recent employer? If you plan to recuse yourself from decisions involving your previous employer, to whom are you delegating decision-making authority?

My most recent employer is Federal Mogul, but I have also recently worked for Ford Motor Company and EDS. My previous relationships with these companies will in no way influence the normal function of any process in DIT.

When any decisions are required involving a previous employer, the decision-making authority will be delegated to one of my three deputy directors and will utilize the standard purchasing processes to ensure the highest levels of integrity are maintained by the DIT.